ociq
Office of the
Chief Information Officer

Anytime-Anywhere Technology

- **Focus: Citizens First**
  - What we do: provide effective and efficient government technology services for agencies and citizens.

- **Directly staff, operate, and supervise technology services on the behalf of**:

  - Dept. of Revenue, Iowa Veterans Home, Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Management, Iowa Utilities Board, Public Defender, Governor's Office, Dept. of Administrative Services, Counties, Schools, and more!
  - And information technology assistance, operations, oversight, coordination, procurement, and security technology services for 58 agencies and 20,000 employees.

- **Critical and visible programs**
  - Technology staff augmentation contract and service
  - IOWAccess grant program for citizen-facing projects
  - State's Broadband Program
  - Google Enterprise email system (<u>saving a $800,000+ per year</u>)

  - 17,691 active accounts on the Google platform. In addition, we have 15,356 inactive searchable Google accounts, for a total of 33,047 Google accounts.
  - Last 6 months: processed 71.9M emails, Added 3.3M files, used 5,792 video sessions, shared over 4.8M documents, and managed over 2,000 connecting devices!

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Enterprise Investment Critical to Success

➔ Technology staff augmentation contract and service

- By consolidating all technology staff augmentation contracts into one, we have eliminated the multiple hourly rates across multiple agencies for the same skill, expedited a review, approval, and resume review process, while saving approximately $1 million annually.

➔ IOWAccess funding program for citizen-facing projects

- Funded projects received multiple national awards! Additional projects we funded included HomeBase Iowa, Broadband, Hosting services for agency websites, Government Fees, Public Disclosure, Talent Bank Initiative, Health Information Network, Transparency, Agency software and web site accessibility for people with disabilities training, and more.

➔ State's Broadband Program

- Funded the program to process tax incentive certifications, resulting in 54 projects across 78 counties, 46 Iowa-based Broadband providers, reaching 21,952 houses, 41 schools, 4,659 businesses, an estimated 3,136 line miles, and $114.9m project value invested.

- <u>Need budget request of $2.6m for grant phase</u>!

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How do we do it?

134 State employees, 89 contractors, and numerous partners in industry.
State agency partnerships - Staff working together.

How we pay for it?

1. Periodic project funding through the Technology Reinvestment Fund. (Enterprise project requests were reduced along with other agency budget adjustments in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

2. Internal Services Fund, Fees for services, Federally audited to limit fees collected to actual costs per service. (Mainframe, networks, web services, print, project management, security, applications, etc.) No General Fund appropriation

3. IOWAccess projects funded through Driver's license abstract record sales through DOT. (Restricted to citizen-facing projects, Agency websites, Admin Rules web site, transparency web site, broadband, etc.) No General Fund appropriation

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Note: State of Iowa's enterprise technology investments are lagging while some individual agency projects are funded - efficiencies cannot be sustained with this model.

The Request (Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF)/Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF))

1. $2.6m for Broadband grants, supports schools, business, communities, health, jobs and economic development – would be the first appropriation for Broadband in years!

   0017 - Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund
   Broadband.....$2,600,000 (Governor Recommended)

2. $12.8m for FY19 to fund critical enterprise projects reduced to $3.3m along with other agency budget reductions. Included encryption services, Google productivity services, Content Management, Data Center hosting, Cyber security Frameworks from Executive Order 87 (includes training, defense controls, STEM scholarships, and implementing current security technologies), government performance dashboard, electronic payment portal, and a local government portal.

   0943 - Technology Reinvestment Fund
   IT Consolidation -OCIO....$3,300,000 (Governor Recommended)

The OCIO Plan:

- Do what we can with what we have!
- Reprioritize projects based on funding availability.
- Continue to accelerate the transformation of Iowa government services
- Reduce long standing technology debt

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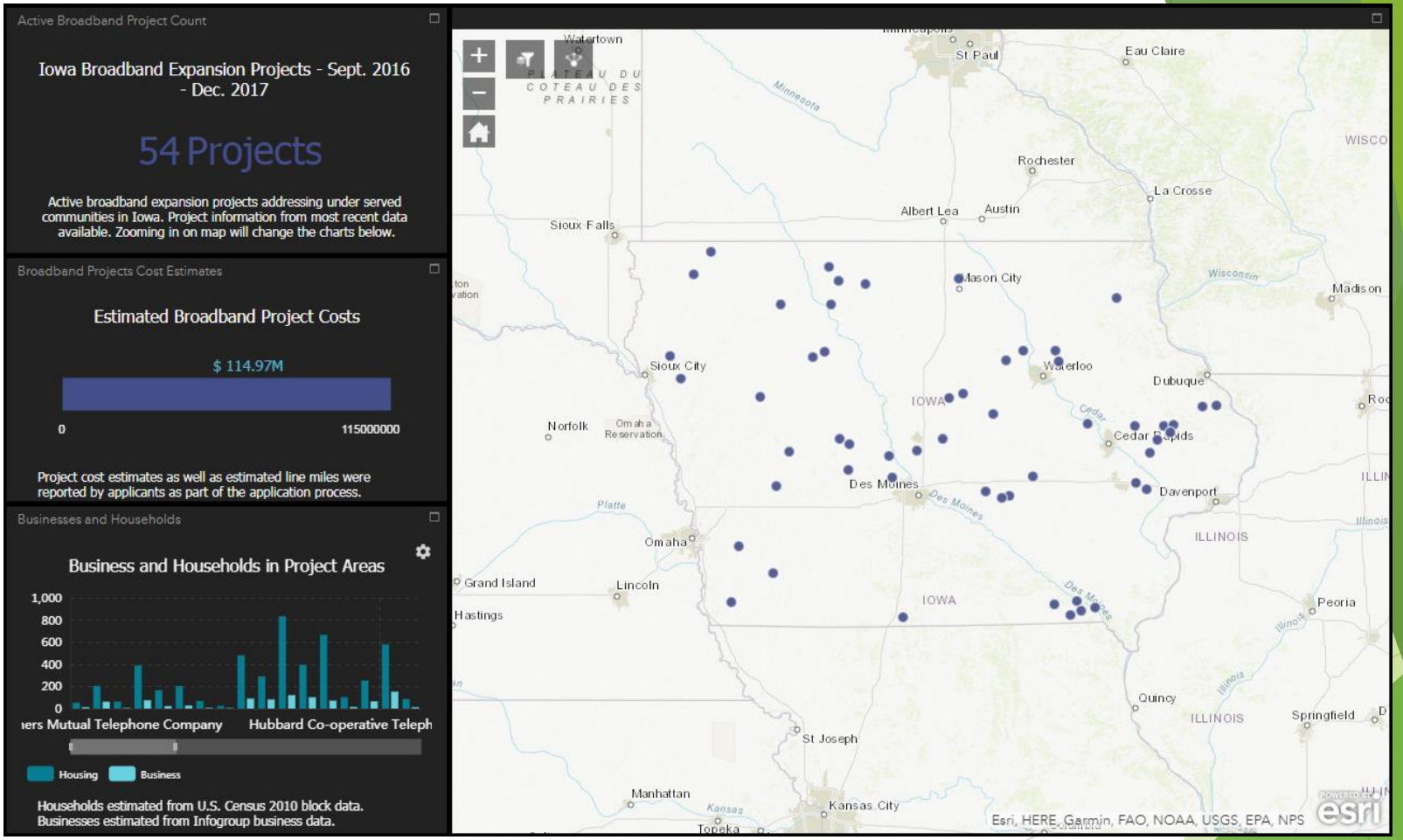

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https://ocio.iowa.gov/ *then click on Now Available: Broadband Expansion Projects*

IT Project Status Report

Filing Date	Calculated Project Health	Agency's Assessment	Project Name	Start Date	Planned End Date	On Time	On Budget	Duration	Forecasted Budget	Amount spent to date
No Report DHR DPD & CJIS Indigent Def Online Case Info Tracking (IDOCIT) Project										
No Report DHR Talent Bank										
2/16/2018	Yellow	Red	DIA SPD Online Submissions M	07/10/2017	12/29/2017	Red	Green	17.2	$66,464	$62,161
2/16/2018	Green	Green	DNR to IOWA Domain Crossove	02/14/2017	12/31/2018	Green	Green	68.5	$17,620	$841
2/16/2018	Green	Green	DNR VDI Project	02/14/2017	02/28/2018	Green	Green	37.9	$28,192	$23,168
2/16/2018	Green	Green	IBPE Pharmacy Database Repl	06/15/2016	06/29/2018	Green	Green	74.4	$53,398	$32,292
2/9/2018	Green	Green	IBPE Prescription Monitoring P	01/30/2017	05/01/2018	Green	Green	45.6	$6,688	$4,023
2/16/2018	Green	Green	IDOE TIER Data Retrieval	07/03/2017	02/28/2018	Green	Green	24	$20,742	$5,334
2/16/2018	Green	Green	IDOM Local Gov Apps	08/02/2017	06/29/2018	Green	Green	33.1	$674,560	$292,695
2/16/2018	Green	Yellow	IDR Add New Collections Clier	01/02/2014	03/30/2018	Green	Green	154.8	$99,547	$57,783
2/18/2016	Green	Green	IDR Annual TY17 Changes	01/02/2014	02/15/2018	Green	Green	150.5	$582,326	$289,732
2/16/2018	Yellow	Yellow	IDR BPTC Corrections	01/02/2014	01/30/2018	Yellow	Green	148.9	$120,269	$43,733
2/16/2018		Green	IDR eID Implementation FY18						$0	$200
2/16/2018			IDR First-Time Homebuyer Savings Account FY18						$0	$39

Coming soon, available to all state employees and agencies!

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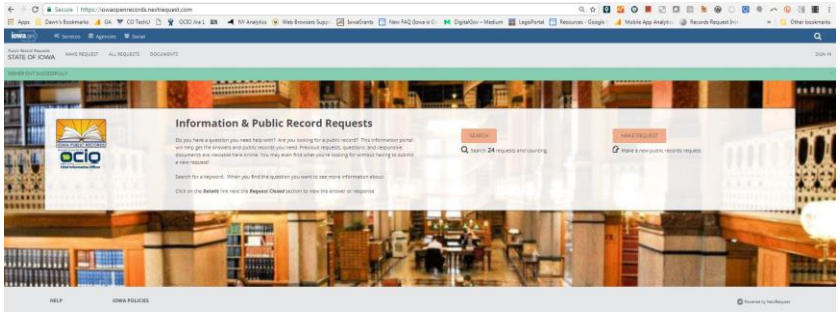

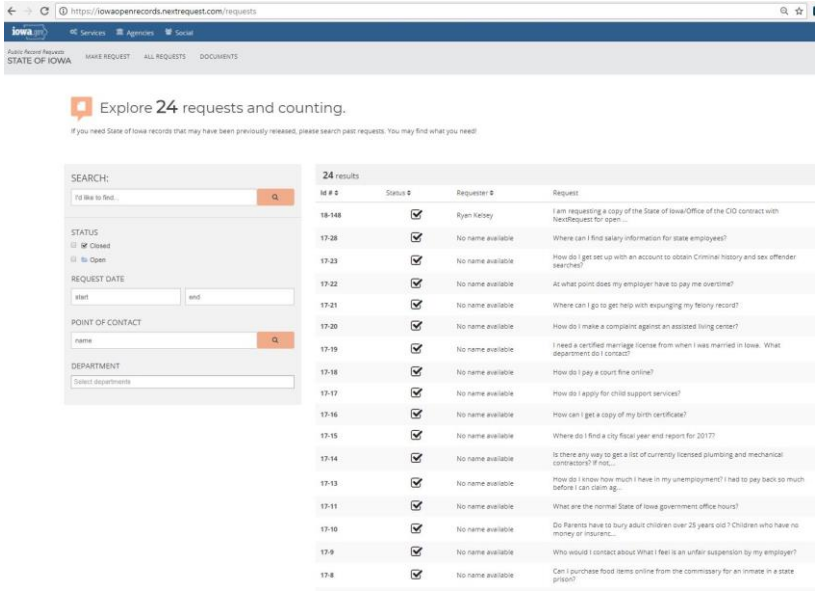

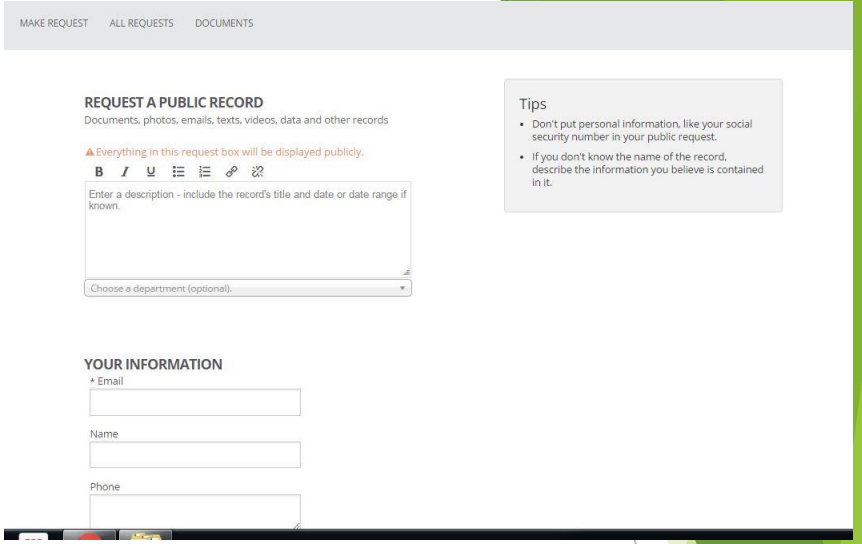

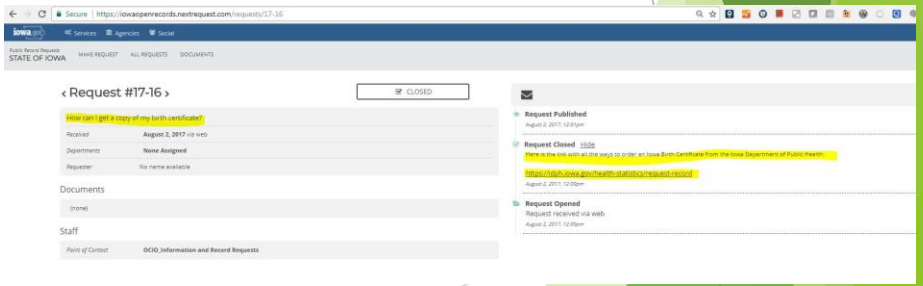

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https://ocio.iowa.gov/open-record-requests

BroadBAND TOGETHER™

BroadBAND TOGETHER™ is the fulfillment of a promise and an ongoing commitment to **Connect Every Acre**. It not only defines how Iowans do things, it recognizes that we accomplish the most when we work together to solve problems. The OCIO has developed a focused and collaborative broadband initiative - **BroadBAND TOGETHER™.** This is a statewide initiative that provides structure and direction for the expansion and enhancement of broadband capabilities in every corner of the state. It also provides direct support of established STEM initiatives calling for ubiquitous access to high speed internet for Iowa's students - both at school and at home.

BroadBAND TOGETHER™ harnesses the power of collaboration!
BroadBAND TOGETHER™ is HOW Iowans will Connect Every Acre!

The Governor has proposed $2.6M in the 2018 State budget to support the BroadBAND TOGETHER™ initiative.

This **$2.6M** in state funding accomplishes several key objectives:

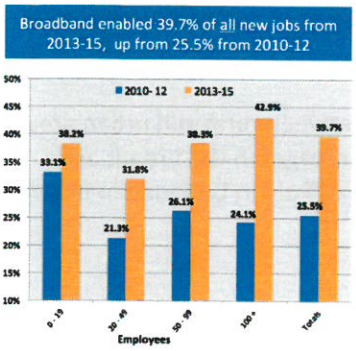
- Allows Iowa to leverage President Trump's proposed **$200M Federal infrastructure program.**
  - Acts as a **catalyst** to provide the local / state funds required to access **federal support**
- Provides for the development of a broadband **grant program** that provides a **15% contribution** to new, qualified broadband deployment projects in the most **rural areas** of Iowa.
- May facilitate over **$15M** in new broadband deployment projects in Iowa.
- Delivers on a promise and **commitment** to provide **high quality, affordable broadband** services to the most underserved areas of our state.
- Supports Iowa's **STEM** initiative calling for ubiquitous access to high speed internet for Iowa's students both at school and at home.
- Provides the transformational power required to **boost rural local economies**, provide better access to global markets and increases workplace productivity providing a better outlook for growth.

The Community Assessment and Partnership Program (CAPP) provides the structural framework for a **BroadBAND TOGETHER™** grant program and is designed to focus and leverage limited resources through collaboration and cooperation. The core components of CAPP are as follows (the "Four C's"):

- ***Cooperation:*** Focus is on organizations and projects who commit to solving broadband problem by working together.
- ***Collaboration:*** Limited state resources require multiple stakeholders to bring individual 'broadband currencies' to the table to bridge the aggregate demand gap and leverage state and federal dollars.
- ***Community:*** Local communities (towns, groups, businesses, schools, or others) determine the appropriate broadband service levels they require. Communities should actively participate in solving the problem, bringing people and resources to the table.
- ***Currency:*** All stakeholders (service providers, businesses, communities, individuals) have some form of 'broadband currency' available.

Our time is **NOW** and our **OPPORTUNITY is Great**. This plan of action is required to properly position the State of Iowa to capture this opportunity of a lifetime – an opportunity that would clearly position Iowa as THE Leader of the Heartland.

The State of Iowa has a recent history of establish several Broadband initiatives, including bills to support "Connecting Every Acre" and "Connect every Iowan". We know that the lack of Broadband affects property values, farmers' information[i] and "Rural broadband services are necessary in an economy where the ability to complete a transaction electronically has become indispensable."[ii] These efforts cumulated in HouseFile655 . This Governor's initiative resulted in creating a specific office for Broadband coordination, a tax incentive program, a grant program, among others. Unfortunately funding was not available.



The office built the program and is currently certifying tax incentive applications. Since July 1 2015, new tax incentive projects constructed by Iowa's Broadband service providers, have delivered, or will deliver upon project completion, new high speed broadband to over 4,000 homes and 700 businesses statewide, in previously underserved areas of the state. Many of these projects deliver new speed capabilities far in excess of the minimum standards required. This effort impacted more than 20 counties and was supported by 14 different Iowa based Broadband service providers. These providers laid down over 550 line miles of fiber and invested over $16 million in new projects. There are close to double the amount of additional service provider projects with applications pending or under development for the Property Tax Exemption program in 2017. (Chart reference: http://sngroup.com/states/)

Iowa's environment has been difficult to overcome in deploying Broadband. This is impart due to the cost of providers to build out in rural areas – their business case does not facilitate a sound investment for their companies. As a result, many providers in the state have taken advantage of many federal programs to facilitate a business case to provide internet access where it is needed. Some of these funding grants allowed for lower speeds, even less than the FCC's standard speed. This effort is not a sustainable model for the future in neither Iowa nor the United States. These programs move forward, but the needle of FCC standard speed deployment does not move in a substantial and timely way – population needs internet access sooner rather than later.

We would like to see investments in new infrastructure transmission technologies that can leverage existing structures and/or existing organizations and service providers. For example, there are promising developments in Rural Electric Cooperatives deploying broadband access along with other services. There are companies exploring antenna delivery systems that can utilize existing telephone poles and companies are also analyzing other inexpensive physical structures to deliver service. *"Dragging fiber to the top of every mountain may not make any sense in terms of cost, time to build, safety of installers and long term survivability against the surrounding elements."*[iii]

Restructuring some of the infrastructure federal programs that could quickly demonstrate the use of innovative technology may facilitate a much faster deployment approach.

Additionally, the federal program support should place the State right in the middle of any future grants to providers in that State. Currently, many programs are funded by the Federal Government without any State involvement. The State is in the best position to review and allocate Broadband infrastructure funding. This also supports a coordinated effort side-by-side with State funding, grants, and tax incentives.

REFERENCES

"Rural broadband companies contributed $24.1 billion to the economies of the states in which they operated in 2015. Of this, $17.2 billion was through their own operations and $6.9 billion was through the follow-on impact of their operations. The total represents the amount added to the Gross Domestic Product by this set of firms.

While the industry produces a range of telecommunications services in rural areas, the economic activity accrues both to the rural areas served and to urban areas as well.

More of this benefit goes to urban than rural areas. Only $8.2 billion, or 34 percent of the $24.1 billion final economic demand generated by rural telecom companies accrues to rural areas; the other 66 percent or $15.9 billion accrues to the benefit of urban areas.

The rural broadband industry supported 69,595 jobs in 2015, both through its own employment and the employment that its purchases of goods and services generated.

Jobs supported by economic activity created by rural broadband companies are shared between rural and urban areas. Forty-six percent are in rural areas; 54 percent are in urban areas. A combination of higher wages in the broadband industry and the specialized nature of the inputs used by the industry, inputs that are more likely to be found in urban than rural areas, drives this result.

Rural broadband supported over $100 billion in e-commerce in 2015.

The largest share was in manufacturing, where a majority of transactions now involve electronic data exchange over broadband networks.

Nearly $10 billion involved retail sales; if broadband had the same reach in rural areas as it does in urban areas, sales would have been at least $1 billion higher." [iv]

Each year, state and local governments spend at least $250 billion on construction of roads, schools and other public infrastructure. http://www.governing.com/gov-data/state-local-government-construction-spending.html

While not perfect by any stretch, the Commission's universal service high-cost program defensibly allocates resources in a relatively well-reasoned and rational way. At the current time, the Commission distributes approximately $4.5 billion annually for these purposes, and projects in the pipeline will dramatically improve overall broadband access in harder to reach areas in the coming months and years ahead. Moreover, the FCC's high-cost program is oversubscribed compared to its budget, which is appropriately tied to how much we can extract from consumers, meaning that there is room to add additional funding that would lead to further deployment gains. https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2017/02/01/federal-broadband-infrastructure-spending-potential-pitfalls

Minnesota - The push to enhance high-speed Internet access in rural areas of Minnesota got a boost Wednesday when a state task force recommended that the state spend another $200 million on the effort. The report said that, while the infusion into the state's broadband grant program would help Minnesota achieve its goal, it would cost $900 million to $3.2 billion to fully expand high-speed Internet statewide.
http://www.govtech.com/network/How-Much-Funding-is-Recommended-for-Minnesota-Broadband.html

Wisconsin allocated $1,500,000.00 in matching grants to organizations deploying Broadband. [v]
Alabama town spends $43M of taxpayer money on super speed Internet gets one subscriber.[vi]
$100 million to expand high-speed Internet access in rural Minnesota. There is bipartisan support for state spending on broadband access, although the cost and goals of the program are in debate. The funding Dayton proposes, which may be allocated over several years, would boost current spending by tenfold but would be administered similarly to the

current grant program. http://www.twincities.com/2016/03/15/gov-mark-daytons-budget-focuses-on-broadband-racial-disparities-tax-cuts/

Pennsylvania staking its claim to more than $23 million in federal funding that Verizon turned down to expand high-speed internet service to rural customers in the state. A Verizon spokesman said Wednesday he had no information on the company's decision. John H. Johnson said Verizon complies with a state law that requires phone companies to offer broadband to any customer who requests it. However, the state mandates much slower speeds than the federal program.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has asked the FCC to ensure the money rejected by Verizon stays in Pennsylvania, while U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., also called on the FCC to keep the funding in the state.

"Losing all or part of this funding would be unfair to Pennsylvania residents in rural and high-cost areas and contrary to the FCC's goal of ensuring broadband access for all," he wrote in a Dec. 22 letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler. Casey noted that Pennsylvania telephone subscribers consistently contribute more than $100 million to the federal universal service fund, which supports the broadband program.

Twenty percent of Pennsylvanians living in rural areas lack access to broadband internet, according to an FCC report cited by Casey. The number rises to as high as 69 percent in some rural counties.[vii]

Right now, the federal government spends about $25 million of taxpayer money each month to subsidize wireless carriers in areas where private capital has been spent building out networks. This is perhaps a textbook definition of waste: public funds being spent to do what the private sector has already done. But that's not all. With respect to the second order, the Commission will also vote to finalize the rules for allocating nearly $2 billion from the Connect America Fund, which aims to advance broadband service across the country.[viii]

Millions of New Yorkers are either limited to target broadband speeds or have no access to broadband at all, creating a gap in the ability of some communities to participate in the global economy. To include all residents in the ongoing digital revolution, we're making the largest and boldest state investment in universal broadband deployment in the nation: a $500 million which will ultimately close the broadband gap. The $500 million program, funded through capital resources from bank settlements, will incentivize the private sector to expand high-speed broadband access in underserved and unserved areas. Broadband providers will contribute, on average, at least 50% of the capital needed. [ix]

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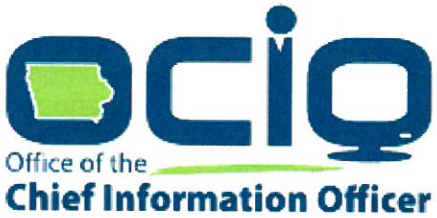
[i] http://cnsmaryland.org/2016/04/15/in-a-state-home-to-the-nsa-many-rural-residents-are-left-without-wired-broadband/
[ii] https://hudson.org/research/12429-hudson-institute-releases-report-on-economic-impact-of-broadband-in-rural-communities
[iii] https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2017/02/01/federal-broadband-infrastructure-spending-potential-pitfalls
[iv] https://hudson.org/research/12429-hudson-institute-releases-report-on-economic-impact-of-broadband-in-rural-communities
[v] http://psc.wi.gov/utilityinfo/tele/broadband/grants/documents/SummaryBBGrantAwardsFY2017.pdf
[vi] http://yellowhammernews.com/business-2/you-can-count-gigabit-broadband-subscribers-alabamas-gig-city-one-finger/
[vii] http://www.crm-daily.com/story.xhtml?story_id=132009Y8U3RC
[viii] https://medium.com/@AjitPaiFCC/closing-digital-divides-boosting-broadcasting-and-reducing-regulatory-burdens-cf911ee5cf16#.3fe8cwk3o
[ix] https://www.ny.gov/programs/broadband-all

BROADBAND KEY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Process, Feedback and Recommendations

Prepared for

The Office of Chief Information Officer of Iowa



Prepared By:

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INTRODUCTION

Fiberutilities Group (FG) was retained by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to perform a variety of initiatives consistent with the advancement of a State Broadband Office and broadband strategy. The first step in this strategy was to identify key broadband stakeholders across the state, and engage in discussions with each regarding broadband, the role broadband plays within their respective organizations, and to gain a better understanding each stakeholder's position regarding a state broadband initiative.

This document summarizes the results of those discussions, key stakeholders feedback, legislative input pertaining to HF 655, and recommendations and input a broad cross section of broadband constituents.

HF655 BACKGROUND

House File 655 (HF655) was passed in 2015 and is commonly referred to as 'the broadband bill.' HF655 provides the (current) legislative language and statutory authority for the establishment of a state Broadband office under the OCIO, and provides guidance for the development of a number of specific programs pertaining to broadband. It should be noted, however, that certain broadband elements of HF655 were eventually passed by including them as an augment to tower siting legislation.

In 2015, a cell site bill and a couple of broadband-related items, notably Property Tax Exemption (PTE), a grant program and a conduit program, were passed by the legislation. No appropriations were authorized to provide any funding to HF655 for program development, program administration, or funding for actual broadband grants. The only functional broadband program developed and subsequently launched and administered was the Property Tax Exemption Program.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION RESULTS

The OCIO has certified approximately 50 projects that have utilized the PTE program. Virtually all of the projects to date have been rural telco Fiber to the Home (FTTH) initiatives.

KEY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A Broadband presentation was created and shared with the OCIO. This presentation was refined with numerous drafts with the most germane points evolving into a one-page Executive Overview. The theme of the presentation and overview is "**BroadBAND TOGETHER™**" connoting the necessity of lowans working together to advance broadband throughout the state. It reinforced key message tracks of cooperation, collaboration and innovation to solve broadband problems.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK & COMMENTARY

Every stakeholder stated that broadband is a critical topic for their organization or their members. Every stakeholder thought broadband was a significant component of success or failure of their organization or members.

However, a common theme across non-service provider stakeholders could be described as 'broadband fatigue'. This materialized in the form of (to varying degrees) disappointment or feeling disenfranchised by previous broadband initiatives. Many cited broadband initiatives as lacking progress or impact with many left wondering if broadband is still a priority to the State of Iowa.

All stakeholders thought the Guiding Principles were appropriate, fair and consistent with how they would envision a broadband program being implemented or administered. It was clear that although the Guiding Principles placed service providers as the beneficiary of available funding traditional "competitive" positions among the service providers themselves will make the selection criteria difficult. Some service providers would prefer no program benefits exist if there is a possibility those benefits would engage greater competition from other service providers.

Regarding HF655, many were aware of the legislation, but unfamiliar with the details. This includes both service providers and non-service providers alike. Many noted that while the legislation was passed, it failed to be funded, stating a disappointment in that result and an acknowledgement that the OCIO had few resources for any effective program. Specifically:

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION:

Property Tax Exemption does not appear to be 'driving' new broadband deployment or materially affecting service provider expansion plans based on provider feedback. While appreciated by the recipient PTE was in and of itself insufficient to drive or accelerate service provider projects. That is not to say when viewed as a single component of a larger matrix it wouldn't be deemed helpful to creating a project. Service providers will apply for PTE if available within their project areas, but would likely not initiate, change or expand any project solely based on the availability of PTE, according to the feedback received.

Non-service providers were either neutral, or against PTE (and all other tax exemptions) as a matter of policy. The impact of PTE in the current context of HF655 was not substantial enough to warrant legislative opposition when it passed. In the absence of quantifiable data showing a specific positive impact on broadband deployment, expansion of PTE would likely be met with more formal opposition. This would potentially create confusion or unnecessary drag for other more critical legislative requirements, one of which might be the service providers own tax restructuring efforts.

GRANT PROGRAM:

Service providers were unanimously in favor of a grant program. Many expressed a frustration that the grant program has not been developed or funded. All service providers stated that a robust grant program would greatly influence their broadband deployment plans. Non-service providers were also in favor of a grant program, and expressed similar concerns about lack of funding. All stakeholders acknowledged that a grant program that has not been developed or funded makes this component of HF655 'moot'. Grant award selection processes and criteria will likely be the battleground for each service provider to promote their special perspective. This reality must be ever present in grant rules development.

CONDUIT PROGRAM:

In general, most service provider and non-service provider stakeholders knew little if anything about the current conduit program. Service providers found the current conduit language confusing or vague in purpose, and like the grant program, unfunded. Service providers did not think the current conduit program would drive or materially influence their deployment plans, even if funded.

The concept of an "open trench / dig once" program was discussed. 'Open trench /dig once ' would allow any service provider advance visibility combined with the ability to place conduit/cable in any trench opened by the state such as IDOT projects. The state via the broadband office would coordinate and communicate state construction projects well in advance allowing service providers to plan appropriately and to access the trench when opened.

Service providers state that logistically, open trench may make sense on large IDOT programs, but not smaller county or local initiatives and it does not solve their frequent challenge with cost effectively utilizing local infrastructure. The emphasis on conduit is being driven by the fact that it is one of the few broadband 'tools' in HF655. However, neither the current legislative language nor a revised open trench / dig once program would indicate significant impact on broadband deployment.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CAPP)

CAPP was not a specific component of HF655, but rather a new concept that was positioned with each stakeholder as a methodology and framework designed to focus and leverage limited resources through collaboration and cooperation. The core components of CAPP were described as follows (the "Four C's"):

- *Cooperation:* The state should focus on organizations or projects where stakeholders are cooperating to solve a broadband problem.
- *Collaboration:* Limited state resources require multiple stakeholders to bring individual 'broadband currencies' to the table to bridge the aggregate demand gap and leverage state dollars.
- *Community:* Local communities (towns, groups, businesses or others) determine the appropriate broadband service levels they require. If different than the existing broadband available, communities should actively participate in solving the problem.
- *Currency:* That all stakeholders (service providers, businesses, schools, communities, individuals) have some form of 'broadband currency' available. Examples of broadband currency include:
    - Cash
    - Utilization of Tax Increment Financing (TIF)[i], Self-Supported Municipal Improvement Districts (SSMIID)[ii] or other economic development tools
    - Property tax exemption
    - Rights of way / permitting / franchising / local regulation
    - Anchor businesses or users
    - Public / private partnerships
    - Broadband adoption initiatives

The state's role in CAPP would include:

- Community Assessment: Determining what local stakeholders have, what they want, and why overlaid to existing service providers and their broadband offerings.
- Stakeholder Engagement: A framework and neutral party that allows service providers and communities to discuss options and alternatives for existing broadband improvement.
- Currency Inventory: identifying all of the different broadband currencies from both service providers and communities, coupled to any state (and/or federal) resources, available to assist a project.
- Strategy: Providing a strategy utilizing all broadband currencies to bridge the aggregate demand gap and advance broadband to the standard desired by any given community.
- Adoption support pre and post deployment

Widespread support exists for grants focused on cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders (community / service provider) or multiple stakeholders. While impossible to know if every stakeholder would agree with every detail of a CAPP approach, this had *the most widespread support of any topic discussed*.

It became apparent that CAPP should be the gateway to any grant program. Other mechanisms for selection can create contention. In essence, the state should award grants to those participating in the CAPP program; CAPP is the prerequisite to state support. This seemed logical to the majority of stakeholders during discussions although it is likely most service providers will lobby for a selection perspective more aligned with their individual business plans.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the observations listed above, FG can recap and categorize broadband efforts and results to date into the following key summary sections:

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

The stakeholder group was comprised of numerous organizations representing both service providers and non-service providers. In general, there is commonality across all stakeholders on the following:

1. Ubiquitous, affordable broadband is extremely important to growth and long-term prosperity of Iowa and Iowans.

2. There is a palpable degree of 'broadband fatigue'; stakeholders crave meaningful broadband action.
3. **BroadBAND TOGETHER™** is a logical and complimentary effort to existing STEM initiatives; it advances the goals and objectives of STEM.

4. CAPP --a cooperative and collaborative approach utilizing multiple stakeholders to solve problems – resonated a logical and potentially effective approach to use as the foundation of a broadband office.

5. A **state grant program** (coupled with other broadband currencies) would be the most effective approach to have meaningful impact on broadband deployment.

    a. That *state grant programs are key to unlocking potential federal matching funds*. It is anticipated that any federal program will require State contributions as a prerequisite. An absence of state funds will most likely preclude access to any federal funds.

6. **Extending the grant program funding window from 2020 to 2025** is logical. Building a grant program only to lose the statutory ability to execute such a program would be illogical.

7. A grant program with CAPP as the gateway for grant applications and awards **should be developed starting in 2018.**

8. **Continued communication and community outreach** regarding the state's broadband plan throughout 2018 is critical to further understanding of the program for both service providers and other broadband stakeholders.

ATTACHMENT A: KEY BROADBAND STAKEHOLDERS

- Iowa Communication Alliance
- Iowa Cable and Telecom Association
- Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
- Iowa League of Cities
- Chamber Alliance
- CenturyLink
- Iowa Farm Bureau
- AT&T
- Iowa Association of Counties
- Iowa Business Council
- Windstream
- South Slope
- Verizon
- ICN
- Principal Financial
- Cedar Valley Alliance
- John Deere
- Technology Association of Iowa
- Iowa Association of Business and Industry
- DuPont Pioneer
- Iowa Corn Growers
- Iowa Soybean Association
- Mediacom Communications
- Smart Source Consulting
- Western Iowa Networks
- The Office of The Chief Information Officer of Iowa (OCIO)

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[i] *Tax increment financing (**TIF**) is a public financing method that is used as a subsidy for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community-improvement projects in many countries, including the United States.* https://www.google.com/search?q=tif&rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS755US757&oq=tif&aqs=chrome..69i57.2671j0j1&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

[ii] Self Supported Municipal Improvement Districts (SSMID), These Business Improvement Districts are a mechanism to finance various types of projects inside a specific geography., https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/userdocs/documents/ieda/SSMIDFinalReport.pdf